GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:525
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SRI LANKA
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of sectors/areas identified by both countries; and

(d) the time by when the said agreement is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) : India has already signed Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka in 1998, which became operational in 2000. Now, both countries are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). CEPA will cover Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Investment & Economic Cooperation. The details of sectors/areas in which cooperation will be extended in CEPA are being negotiated. No time limit has been fixed by either country for finalizing the CEPA negotiations.